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Date: March 17, 2006

Signature:

(Laura Shires)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,018

Confirmation No.: 8804

Filing Date: March 11, 2004

Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.

Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM

Examiner: G. Dawson

Group Art Unit: 3731

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

*Please Enclosed
Attn: 373-06*
Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed February 14, 2006 for which a response is due on May 14, 2006. Applicant is responding within 2 months from the mailing date of the Office Action and request expedited review.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.